

**Section 1.** Section 87-2-506, MCA, is amended to read:

**"87-2-506. Restrictions on hunting licenses.** (1) The department may prescribe by rule the number of hunting licenses to be issued. Any license sold may be restricted to a specific administrative region, hunting district, or other designated area and may specify the species, age, and sex to be taken and the time period for which the license is valid.

(2) (a) When Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), when the number of valid resident applications for big game licenses or permits of a single class or type exceeds the number of licenses or permits ~~the department desires to issue~~ to be issued in an administrative region, hunting district, or other designated area, then the number of big game licenses or permits issued to nonresident license or permit holders in the region, district, or area may not exceed 10% of the total issued.

(b) When the number of valid resident applications for archery-only elk permits exceeds the number of permits to be issued in an administrative region, hunting district, or other designated area, then the number of archery-only elk permits issued to nonresident permit holders in the region, district, or area may not exceed 15% of the total issued. If an archery-only elk permit is issued to all residents who have submitted a valid application for that region, district, or area indicating that region, district, or area as their first choice, then the 15% restriction does not apply to the issuance of the remaining permits.

(3) Disabled veterans who meet the qualifying criteria

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provided in 87-2-803(5) must be provided a total of 50 Class A-3 deer A tags, 50 Class A-4 deer B tags, 50 Class B-7 deer A tags, 50 Class B-8 deer B tags, and 50 special antelope licenses annually, which may be used within the administrative region, hunting district, or other designated area of the disabled veteran's choice, except in a region, district, or area where the number of licenses are less than the number of applicants, in which case qualifying disabled veterans are eligible for no more than 10% of the total licenses for that region, district, or area."

{ Internal References to 87-2-506: None. }